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Good morning, Wesley.

Thank you again for working with us during our fly-in last month. Our members really enjoyed hearing from Secretary Zinke.

I was hoping you could help coordinate approval for this quote.

Our President and CEO Mike Johnson regularly authors a column for Maryland Infrastructure Magazine, and they are interested in a summary from our fly-in.

Please let me know if you have any edits. The entire draft column is also attached.

Thank you!

There are thousands of hard-working people in Maryland who produce the crushed stone, sand and gravel necessary to improve our crumbling and congested infrastructure. Recent studies show that every job in a quarry supports nearly five outside the operation in other industries, like construction and trucking.

With that in mind, we were glad to hear Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke and Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Scott Pruitt remark on the effects of burdensome regulations on our country's businesses, especially when regulations are not based on common sense or sound science.

"Let's say you have a stream that includes trout and salmon, and there's dam upstream and irrigation downstream. To get permits, you have to address the salmon with the Commerce Department, the trout with Fish and Wildlife, the dam is regulated by the Army Corps of Engineers and the irrigation is regulated by the Bureau of Reclamation," Secretary Zinke said. "It's never too late to look at what we're doing and do it better."

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